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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
Thirteenth session
Lyon, 4-15 September, 2000
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

VENUE OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. Rule 3 of the draft rules of procedure being applied states that the "sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seat of the secretariat, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the secretariat in consultation with the Parties" (FCCC/CP/1996/2).

2. The hosting of a session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) away from the Convention headquarters traditionally confers the presidency upon the host government. In the context of the rotation of the presidency among the five regional groups, the first cycle was completed at COP 5, and a new cycle has begun with the hosting of COP 6 by the Netherlands. In accordance with the principle of rotation, the next session of the COP could be held in Africa.

B. Scope of the note

3. In conformity with the calendar of meetings adopted at COP 5 (FCCC/CP/1999/6/Add.1, section II), the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties will take place from 29 October to 9 November 2001.

4. At the twelfth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco made a generous offer to host the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties. The SBI welcomed that offer and requested the secretariat to review the facilities and

report to SBI at its thirteenth session, with a view to the SBI agreeing on the text of a draft COP decision at the first part of that session (FCCC/SBI/2000/5, para. 43 (g)).

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. The SBI may wish:

(a) To take note of the present report;

(b) To agree upon the text of a draft decision for submission to COP 6.

II. REVIEW OF THE FACILITIES FOR COP 7

6. In accordance with the above-mentioned request made by the SBI at its twelfth session, the secretariat conducted a technical mission to Morocco. The representative of the secretariat met with officials in Rabat and Casablanca and visited the proposed conference venue in Marrakech.

7. The Government of Morocco confirmed its interest in hosting COP 7 and in receiving representatives of all the Parties to the Convention. His Majesty King Mohammed VI has graciously extended his royal patronage to the Conference. The offer of Morocco to host the Conference is intended as a demonstration of its commitment to the ongoing process of the Convention. Morocco regards this opportunity for a session of the Conference to be held in Africa for the first time as a chance to diversify and extend involvement in the process. Moroccan officials confirmed their intention to facilitate the entry into Morocco of representatives of all Parties, observer States and observer organizations to the Convention attending the session. The Kingdom of Morocco will take appropriate measures to ensure the security and safety of all participants. Government officials confirmed that the proposed venue of the session is the "Palais des Congrès de Marrakech" in the city of Marrakech.

8. Marrakech has an international airport with direct connections to most major airports. It is also within easy reach of Casablanca and Rabat by air or road. The city has a sufficient number of hotels in all categories. The representative of the secretariat was given adequate opportunity and assistance to review the facilities for holding meetings at the Palais des Congrès, and for receiving and accommodating participants in the city of Marrakech.

9. The secretariat was thus able to ascertain that the conference centre is well equipped and has adequate facilities in terms of meeting rooms; registration, documentation and consultation areas; space and facilities for the press; exhibition areas etc., to accommodate the expected number of participants. Technical facilities for interpretation, telecommunication and Internet access are either available or would be upgraded to meet the requirements of the negotiation process.

10. The city of Marrakech is a major centre for tourism and conferences, and a number of large intergovernmental and non-governmental meetings have previously been held there successfully. The local authorities are well versed in hosting international conferences and the

secretariat was assured of the necessary support from the prefecture of Marrakech. The secretariat review confirms that the facilities are suitable for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Marrakech.

Draft decision -/CP.6

DATE AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 7.4 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 on the pattern of conferences,

Having received an offer from the Kingdom of Morocco to host the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties in Marrakech and to cover the related costs,

1. *Accepts with gratitude* the generous offer of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Decides* that the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 29 October to 9 November 2001;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to conclude a host country agreement with the Government of Morocco on arrangements for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties.

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